



News for Immediate Release  
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**DWR Will Update Dive Program To Address Cal-OSHA Citations  
*Investigation Results and Independent Panel Recommendations  
will Improve Diver Safety***

Sacramento -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced that it is addressing all dive program deficiencies identified in Cal-OSHA citations issued today. The citations follow a February 7 accident that killed two DWR divers who were inspecting the Dos Amigos pumping plant in Merced County.

The citations do not find fault with anyone involved in the accident. Rather, they are the result of a Cal-OSHA workplace safety investigation triggered by the February accident.

"The Cal-OSHA investigation identifies changes that will improve our dive program," said DWR Director Lester Snow. "Our paramount concern is the safety of our employees. Before any decision is made to restart our dive program or put our divers back in the water, DWR will revise its procedures based on these citations and other issues that come from our own accident investigation and the Independent Expert Dive Safety Task Force report."

Cal-OSHA cited DWR for the following: 1) Failure to have proper equipment on the air compressor unit; 2) Failure to keep appropriate service logs for dive equipment; 3) Failure to have all pumps shut off during diving operations; 4) Failure to limit water velocities to less than one knot during SCUBA diving operations; 5) Failure to have emergency procedures outlined in the dive manual and failure to develop an emergency plan prior to the February 7, 2007 dive; and 6) Failure to provide training or instruction as required by DWR dive policies.

On February 8, DWR Director Snow initiated a complete investigation into the accident. That investigation is slated to be completed and released once the U.S. Navy concludes testing of advanced dive equipment used in the accident. In March, DWR also appointed an independent panel of dive experts to assess overall DWR dive program safety practices, equipment, training and diving policies. The panel's report will be completed this month.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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